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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9765
INFO RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 0402
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0670
RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 1394
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 0664
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0353
RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY 0967
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY 0439
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0897
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY 0817
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/21/2017

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SUBJECT: STP PRESIDENT DE MENEZES MEDEVACED TO BELGIUM

Classified By: Ambassador Barrie Walkley

11. (U) Fradique de Menezes, the president of Sao Tome and Principe (STP), left Sao Tome June 11. A statement indicated that de Menezes was going to Belgium for medical tests and would be returning after a few days. Since then there has been no official word of his condition.

12. (C) According to insiders at the Presidency, de Menezes was suffering from "an intestinal blockage" and went to Belgium for surgery. He is not expected back in STP until the first week of July.

13. (C) COMMENT: De Menezes, who is 65, drinks heavily, is overweight and does not eat sensibly. On May 27, he told Ambassador Walkley that he was suffering from "stomach cramps." The "cramps" were serious enough to cause him to miss the national convention of the MDFM -- his own political party. De Menezes has many contacts with Belgium: he holds a degree from a Belgian university and was STP's ambassador to that country; his deceased wife was Belgian.

WALKLEY